TROPICAL CYCLONE 01B

Tropical Cyclone (TC) 01B emerged from a poorly organized area of convection embedded within the near-equatorial trough. It was first noted on the Significant Tropical Weather Advisory (ABIO) bulletin for the Indian Ocean valid 13 May. The system slowly developed as it drifted in a generally northward direction within the Bay of Bengal. The first warning was issued at 1800Z on 14 May based on a satellite derived intensity estimate of 25 kt (13 m/sec) and indications that the system was developing. The presence of equatorial westerlies and good upper level outflow meant that the cyclone should continue to intensify. Intensity estimates ranging from 35 to 40 kt (18-21 m/sec) were received less than six hours later. Beginning at 1200Z on the 15th, TC 01B slowed and veered toward the east, remaining at a constant intensity of 50 kt (26 m/sec) for approximately 24 hours. Afterwards the cyclone picked up speed and again tracked generally northward while further intensifying. By 0000Z on the 17th, TC 01B had reached 65 kt (33 m/sec). By 1800Z on the 18th the system developed an eye. Twelve hours later it peaked at 115 kt (59 m/sec). This intensity was maintained until landfall occurred in Bangladesh shortly after 1200Z on 19 May. Once over land, the system continued its north-northeastward track, increased its speed significantly north of the subtropical ridge axis, and dissipated due to land interaction as it neared China. TC 01B caused significant damage and several hundred casualties in Bangladesh.

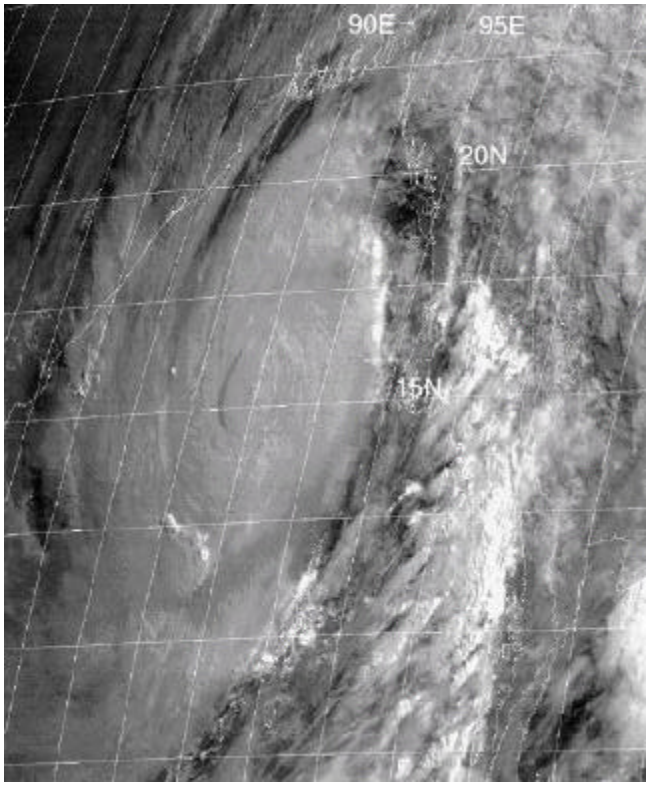
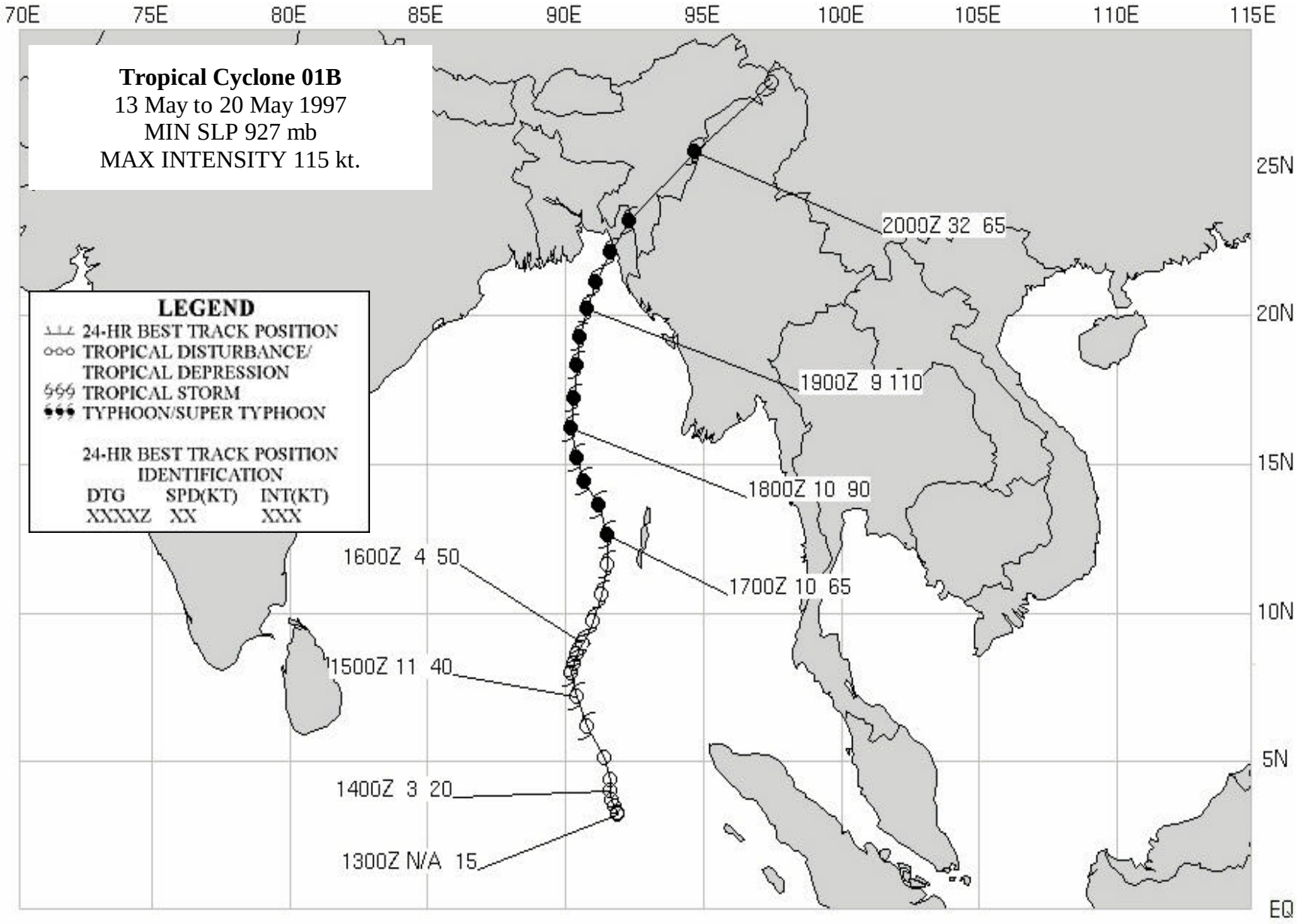


Figure 3-01B-1 Visible imagery of TC 01B from 180034Z May.


Tropical Cyclone 01B
13 May to 20 May 1997
MIN SLP 927 mb
MAX INTENSITY 115 kt.
LEGEND
24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION
TROPICAL DISTURBANCE/ TROPICAL DEPRESSION
TROPICAL STORM
TYPHOON/SUPER TYPHOON
24-HR BEST TRACK POSITION IDENTIFICATION
DTG SPD(KT) INT(KT)
XXXXZ XX XXX
2000Z 32 65
1900Z 9 110
1800Z 10 90
1700Z 10 65
1600Z 4 50
1500Z 11 40
1400Z 3 20
1300Z N/A 15
70E
75E
80E
85E
90E
95E
100E
105E
110E
115E
25N
20N
15N
10N
5N
EQ